(1)

POL 23-9 UVOLTA
XR POL 13-1 UVOLTA
XL LAB 6-1 UVOLTA

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

Ouagadougou 209

2

CONFIDENTIAL

Action AF
Info SS G SP SAH EUR P USIA NSC INR CIA NSA DOD NIC AID PC SIL SY SCA SCS PER OPR OC OCRO LAB RSR

PP RUEHC RUFHPA
DE RUEHCR 001GP 0011910
ZNY CCCCC
P R 011859Z
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU (CORRECTED C
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC (PRIORITY 209)
INFO RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 112
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY 74
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY COTONOU 72
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY LOME 58
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS 103
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L JANUARY 1

CORRECTION ISSUED
1/4/66 - 12:17 a.m.

0 0 0 2 7 3

January 2, 1966
1:02 p.m.

See Tel 218

SUBJ: DISTURBANCES OUAGADOUGOU

AT LEAST TWENTY LABOR UNIONISTS INJURED AND ONE LABOR LEADER ARRESTED EVENING DEC 29. IN FIRST ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION OUAGADOUGOU SINCE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE. DISTURBANCE APPARENTLY UNPLANNED, ERUPTING WHEN POLICE STRONG-ARMED EXCITED UNIONISTS WHO HAD LEARNED IN COURSE REGULAR MEETING THAT PRESIDENT YAMEOGO HAD JUST INFORMED SPECIAL SESSION PARLIAMENT CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES WOULD BE CUT 10 TO 20 PERCENT. TROOPS WERE IMMEDIATELY ALERTED AND PATROLS AND CHECK POINTS ESTABLISHED. CITY CALM MORNING JAN 1 AND TROOP PRESENCE REDUCED BY LATE AFTERNOON. GENERAL STRIKE RUMORED HOWEVER FOR MONDAY JANUARY 3.

DISTURBANCE OCCURRED AT BOURSE DE TRAVAIL WHERE LEFTIST UNION SYNDICALE DES TRAVAILLEURS VOLTAIQUES HOLDING FINAL SESSION ANNUAL CONFERENCE. (UNION INCLUDES LARGE NUMBER CIVIL SERVANTS, LARGEST GROUP OF WHICH TEACHERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS.) SIMULTANEOUSLY AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PRESIDENT YAMEOGO WAS PRESENTING COMBINATION PAY CUTS, ELIMINATION ALLOWANCES AND SOME TAX RELIEF. VIEW SIMILAR THOUGH SMALLER CUT IN ALLOWANCES MADE JAN 1965 AND SALARY INCREASES BEING DEMANDED AT MEETING. UNIONISTS RAISED ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTEST. VIOLENCE BROKE OUT AFTER DENIS YAMEOGO, PRESIDENT'S COUSIN, STRONG-ARM MAN, AND MINISTER INTERIOR, ARRIVED WITH PARTY PRESIDENTIAL GUARD. GUARD USED TEAR GAS AND BATONS FREELY.

DURING EVENING DEC 31 RADIO WORKERS SABOTAGED TRANSMISSION PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. MORNING JAN 1 THERE PARTIAL STRIKE IN HOSPITAL. TROOPS OUT IN FORCE, HOWEVER AND CITY CALM DURING DAY. TROOPS HOWEVER STILL GUARDING RADIO AND POSTOFFICE. JOSEPH OUEDRAOGO, LEADER CHRISTIAN UNION AND LONG-TIME POLITICAL OPPONENT PRESIDENT YAMEOGO IS ONLY MAN WHOSE ARREST CONFIRMED.

(3)

CONFIDENTIAL

REVIEWED: EB
PORTION:

-2- 209, JANUARY 1, FROM OUAGADOUGOU

IT NOT KNOWN WHETHER SALARY CUTS INCLUDE ARMY, WHICH NOT AFFECTED LAST YEAR. ACCORDING [redacted] ALL ARMY OFFICERS VOLUNTARILY PLEDGED PRESIDENT THEIR SUPPORT THIS MORNING. HE BELIEVES PRESIDENT HAS SITUATION IN HAND AND THAT STRIKE ACTION IF ANY, WILL GIVE WAY TO TALKS AND EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT.

GP-3. ROBERTS
BT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 7:33 P.M. JANUARY 2, 1966
CORRECTION SENT S/S-O AT 6:30 A.M. JANUARY 3, 1966